



## *Voiture 1379 Communiqué for May 2023*

### MEMBERSHIP

Voyageur Militaries we have lost three members this membership year

Paul Bennett

Cole J. Nixon

Roger Kimbrell

We need to do the Memorial Service to honor their passing.

Alexander Vivas and did not provide new address

So we need to find some new blood for our Voiture – Lest our group will vanish so be on the lookout for new members.

FYI - The **“Friendship Train”**, as it was called, left Los Angeles on November 7, 1947 with eight empty boxcars. The response from across America was overwhelming and eleven days later on November 18, 1947 the **“Friendship Train”** arrived in New York with some 700 Box Cars loaded with donated goods worth \$40 million. The supplies were then shipped to the region.

As the aid began to pour in, a French veteran of WW I and railroad worker named **Andre’ Picard** was so grateful for America’s outpouring of generosity that he formulated a response and joined with the French Veterans Association to reply with a 49 car **“Merci Train”** of WWI era boxcars, each filled with mementos from the French people and sent to America.

The boxcars arrived in New York Harbor February 3, 1949 and as the “Gratitude Train”, as came to be called in America, crossed the Nation one boxcar with it’s contents was donated to each of the 48 States with one shared by the District of Columbia and the territory of Hawaii.

Today these “Box Cars” stand in their respective States as a testament to these two incredible displays of goodwill and have evolved through the efforts of “La Societe de 40 and 8” and the National Boxcar Association to annually raise funding to support the many charitable programs of the 40/8 in support of our communities across this great Nation.

The **National Box Car Association** was founded in 1965 as an affiliate of “La Societe de Forty & Eight” with the primary purpose of preserving the Box Car as the symbol of the Forty & Eight. Over time Locomotives were added to the symbolic rolling stock of the NBCA since they were connected and needed to haul the Box Cars.

The National Box Car Association set goals of making contributions to Hospitals, Children’s Homes and Orphanages. Expanding it’s efforts the NBCA supports special projects at the annual Promenade Nationale (National Convention). A party for special children is held in the host city where the children and their escorts are treated to lunch, train rides on visiting Locomotives, and entertainment by the NBCA HOBBO Clowns and bands, etc.

This month’s Promenade will be on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Post 61 Kansas City, MO with dinner starting at 18:00 HRS (6:00 P.M.) and the Promenade will start right after dinner.

**Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation, and your service to the 40et8 through Voiture 1379. If we all work together we can and do make a difference.**

**Robert C. Emery, Correspondant Locale, Voiture 1379**